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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Luncheon to honor disability journalism/poster contest winners

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will honor the student winners of its annual "Ability Counts" Journalism and Poster Contest at an 11:30 awards luncheon Thursday, May 8.

The contest, in its 58th year, focuses attention on the abilities of Alabamians with disabilities and promotes a greater awareness of the contributions that people with disabilities make to the workplace and the community.

"Our theme this year is 'Worker with Disabilities: Talent for a Winning Team,' and this year's winning essays and posters emphasize that people with disabilities do, in fact, bring valuable skills to the job market," said Steve Shivers, commissioner of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services. "Like anyone else, individuals with disabilities want to be independent, productive, taxpaying citizens, and becoming employed gives them that opportunity."

The competitions are sponsored by the Alabama Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities and the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services.

Students from around the state competed in either the journalism essay or the poster contest. The five journalism winners will receive certificates and monetary awards. The poster contest included entries in three categories: junior high, high school, and postsecondary. The winners will receive a certificate and a monetary award.

The Alabama Governor's Committee on the Employment of Disabilities is a program of the Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, whose mission is to enable Alabama's children and adults with disabilities to achieve their maximum potential.

The luncheon will be at the Capital City Club in the RSA Tower in downtown Montgomery.